

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
Conference Call Held on
Friday, May 2, 2008
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 333
Sacramento, CA 95814

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Participating

Kevin Andrew
Dennis Atkinson
Greg Coleman
Pete Downs

Ben Drake
Frank Leeds
Steve McIntyre
Dana Merrill

Steve Schafer
Herb Schmidt
Jim Unti

Members Not Participating

Wally Ewart
Andrew Johnson

Bradford Lange
Al Rossini

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Alan Bennett
George Bruening
Tom Esser
Mike Falasco
Ken Freeze
Nancy Irelan
Kyle Jensen

Cecelia Chi-Ham
Craig Hanes
Camron King
Janet LeMasters
David Morgan
Kari Morrow
Stacie Oswalt

Roger Spencer
Judy Stewart-Leslie
Beth Stone-Smith
Doug West
Eric Wylde
Bob Wynn

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Herb Schmidt called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call. A quorum was present. Other attendees on the call introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairperson Herb Schmidt welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Herb Schmidt asked the PD/GWSS Board members to review the minutes from the meetings held on January 28 and March 7, 2008.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 28 and March 7, 2008 meetings.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake; Second: Kevin Andrew

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Leeds, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

NEXT MEETING

The next joint meeting of the PD/GWSS Board and PD Advisory Task Force was scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2008, at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento in the Auditorium, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD AND TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Bob Wynn announced that Frank Leeds' resignation would be effective May 5, 2008. Bob said this was Frank's last meeting and expressed his appreciation for Franks' participation over the years on the PD/GWSS Board. Chairman Schmidt concurred with the statements made by Bob Wynn. Frank Leeds said a few words and told the Board to keep up the good work. Bob Wynn said he had a certificate of appreciation for Frank for his service on the PD/GWSS Board.

RESEARCH DIRECTOR RFP

Tom Esser reported that an RFP for soliciting bids to provide PD/GWSS research director services beyond the current contract termination date (June 30, 2008) had been prepared, reviewed, and released. It was released on April 24 and proposals were due by May 15. The target is to have the new contract begin July 1, 2008.

PIPRA PROPOSAL

Alan Bennett briefly discussed PIPRA's service proposal for fiscal year 2008-09. It includes maintaining the Pierce's disease intellectual property database and online reporting system and developing a standardized regulatory process for the Pierce's disease community.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend funding the PIPRA proposal as submitted (Support for the Management of Intellectual Property Within the Pierce's Disease Research Initiative and Research Community; \$89,500).

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre; Second: Kevin Andrew

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Leeds, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Nancy Irelan provided an overview on the three economic research proposals. Nancy said she had worked with Dr. Dan Sumner, the economic expert on the Research Scientific Advisory Panel (RSAP), on the review of these proposals. She presented the strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for each

proposal, then said that the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District was willing to provide partial funding for one of the proposals (Dr. Karen Jetter's). The Board then voted.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to recommend funding the economic research proposal submitted by Dr. Karen Jetter for two years. The funding for this project (The Economics of Pierce's Disease in California; \$74,461 total) will be split 50/50 between CDFA and the Consolidated Central Valley Table Grape Pest and Disease Control District.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Steve McIntyre; Second: Dana Merrill

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Leeds, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

Steve McIntyre discussed the biological research proposals. He described the RFP and review process, and reported that roughly half of the submitted proposals were being recommended for funding by either the PD/GWSS Board or the UC PD Research Grant Program. The projects recommended for funding by the Board totaled \$2.274 million over three years. After discussion, the Board voted.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and passed by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend funding nine research projects totaling \$2,273,697 over the next three years.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake; Second: Dana Merrill

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, McIntyre, Merrill, Schmidt, Unti

Against: Leeds

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini, Schafer

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Bob Wynn stated that two biological control proposals submitted via the RFP process were more applied and service-oriented in nature rather than scientific research, so they were being brought to the Board for funding consideration as applied rather than basic research. David Morgan briefly discussed the proposals and the importance of this work to the GWSS biological control effort. The Board then voted.

- ❖ It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to recommend funding the two biological control proposals, with full funding for one year for Dr. Serguei Triapitsyn's proposal (Rearing Important Egg Parasitoids of GWSS in the University of California at Riverside Quarantine Facility; \$31,430), and 2/3's funding for one year for Dr. Roger Leopold's proposal (Increasing Availability of GWSS Eggs for Parasitoid Production and Release; \$45,326).

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake; Second: Greg Coleman

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Leeds, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CONTRACT AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Roger Spencer presented an update on the public outreach and education RFP with the winning bid going to Brown Miller Communication. Brown Miller had agreed to the scope of work in the deliverables presented in the RFP for a total cost of \$198,820 over a 12-month period. The PD/GWSS Board must approve the funding for this contract for concurrent fiscal years. Since there are only two months left in the 2007-08 fiscal year, the funding amount would be \$55,542 and would end June 30, 2008. In 2008-09, the amount would be \$143,278, beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009. The total amount would be \$198,820.

After a brief discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend a new contract for public outreach and education awarded to Brown-Miller Communications, Inc. in Fiscal Year 2007-08 at \$55,542 and in Fiscal Year 2008-09 at \$143,278 totaling an amount not to exceed \$198,820.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake; Second: Frank Leeds

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Leeds, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Schmidt, Unti

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

NURSERY TREATMENT FUNDING -- [VENTURA NURSERY CONTRACT]

Roger Spencer stated that the nursery treatment program in Ventura County should continue. We are proposing a two year contract with \$300,000 for each fiscal year. This contract would start July 1, 2008 for Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-2010 at a cost of \$300,000 per year. This contract has been funded for the past three years and has been very effective. On our tour in Ventura, the nursery growers commented on the effectiveness of this treatment program.

Discussion continued with Chairman Schmidt stating that the Ventura County nurseries are very important and very supportive of what we are doing for them. We need to continue to support them. Ben Drake asked if this treatment funding was available to any other county now that we have the nursery approved treatment program (NATP). Bob Wynn noted that other nurseries in other counties have made similar inquiries.

Ben Drake moved to put \$300,000 in the budget every year for nursery treatments in the Southern California counties. Steve McIntyre noted that CDFA should distribute the money to the counties.

There was discussion that these treatments should be provided only to nurseries abiding by the NATP. Bob Wynn stated that would be a significant change if we were to narrow it down to NATP nurseries, especially in Ventura County. We need to keep in mind that this program also benefits those nurseries in Ventura that may not be participating in the NATP but just in their general shipping. There are only two nurseries in Ventura that will be participating in the NATP.

Frank Leeds noted his disbelief that we are considering spending \$300,000 to help nurseries send treated products up to Northern California. He said he couldn't believe how anybody can think that this is a good idea and asked for a roll call vote on this.

It was noted that some of the larger nurseries use aerial treatment but not all of them. It is a more efficient process for some nurseries to do it that way.

After this discussion, the Board voted and passed the following motion:

- ❖ It was moved, seconded and passed by the PD/GWSS Board to recommend to the Secretary that the Board fund nursery treatments in Southern California counties for a total of \$300,000 for one year beginning July 1, 2008.

Details of PD/GWSS Board Vote

Motion: Ben Drake; Second: Steve McIntyre

In Favor: Andrew, Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, McIntyre, Merrill, Schafer, Unti

Against: Leeds, Schmidt

Abstain: none

Absent: Ewart, Johnson, Lange, Rossini

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

Not held.

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

None

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.